

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment before the first Office Action.

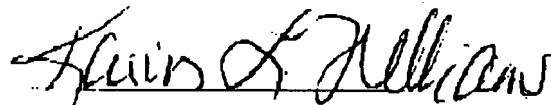
An accurate, literal English translation of the German language application is filed herewith.

Claims 1-12 are now pending herein, Claims 1 and 11 being the independent claims.

The claims are amended in order to make the application conform to idiomatic English and to U.S. practice; no new matter has been added.

Applicant submits Claims 1-12 are in condition for examination, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved. If there are any fees due and owing in respect to this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karin L. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Karin L. Williams

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